

CONFIDENTIAL

DDI Registry

25X1

**DDI Chrono**

DDI 402668-85

13 August 1985

NOTE TO: Director, ALA  
Deputy Director, ALA

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: South Africa

1. I'm afraid that sometimes expressing my concerns has an impact greater than I intend. I do not have any real misgivings about the work we have been doing on South Africa up to now. In fact, I believe that the research program we have carried out on South Africa over the last 2-3 years is perhaps the most comprehensive and outstanding in quality of anything done in the Directorate on a single subject. I consider it a model.

25X1

2. The worry I expressed to you the other day was intended to ensure that during the present time of troubles in South Africa, we not be content with single outcome forecasts but instead make sure we examine the whole range of possibilities. I am content at this point that [ ] paper will serve this purpose.

25X1  
25X1  
25X1

3. I have enormous confidence in our Africa analysts [ ] Please don't let my [ ] musing or concerns about the possibilities in South Africa suggest any lessening of that confidence or cause any watering down of the analysts' judgments.

25X1  
25X1

4. I believe that our analysts on South Africa, more than anybody else in government, know what they are talking about. My concern is to ensure only that we are examining all the possibilities rigorously.

25X1

Robert M. Gates

25X1

PS: I am rereading a lot of ALA's work on South Africa and I am struck by the extraordinary accuracy of the paragraph [ ] in [ ] IA on Black Protest in January:

25X1

"Widespread unorganized black violence precipitated by soaring levels of general economic and political discontent

25X1

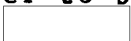
CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL



25X1

and characterized by random attacks against whites probably would be the most serious threat to Botha. Under this circumstance, the government would be likely to maximize its security responses, including mobilizing Army and police reserves, as well as promising far-reaching concessions, possibly including an offer to blacks of some form of political power sharing. "

25X1

DDI/RMGates 

25X1

## DISTRIBUTION:

- 0 - D/ALA; DD/ALA
- 1 - DDI Registry
- 1 - DDI Chrono

CONFIDENTIAL